

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors:	Richard Foltak, Lio Cheng		
Assignee:	Cisco Technology, Inc.		
Title:	MAINTAINING A COMMON AAA SESSION ID FOR A CALL OVER A NETWORK		
Application No.:	10/032,628	Filing Date:	October 26, 2001
Examiner:	George C. Neurauter	Group Art Unit:	2143
Docket No.:	CIS0135C1US	Confirmation No.:	6807

Austin, Texas
August 17, 2007

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RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated June 4, 2007, having a shortened statutory period expiring on September 4, 2007. Further examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks set forth below.

No Amendments to the Specification are presented in this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on **page 2** of this paper.

No Amendments to the Drawings are presented in this paper.

Remarks begin on **page 8** of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims, if entered, will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method comprising:

creating a unique session identifier for a user, wherein

the unique session identifier is created by one of a plurality of network access servers; and

the unique session identifier is created in a manner that prevents more than one of the network access servers from creating a same unique session identifier; and

providing the unique session identifier **from the one of the network access servers** to an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) module[[],] **; and**

providing the unique session identifier from the one of the network access servers to an additional server, wherein

the additional server is also configured to provide the unique session identifier to the AAA module; and

wherein each of the network access servers is configured to request AAA processing from the AAA module.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The method recited in Claim 1, wherein:

the creating the unique session identifier further comprises appending a unique identifier-to a local session identifier, and

the unique identifier is associated with the one of the network access servers.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The method recited in Claim 2, wherein:

the unique identifier is an IP address of the one of the network access servers.

4. (Currently Amended) The method recited in Claim 1, ~~further comprising~~
wherein[:]]

~~providing the unique session identifier to~~ the additional server is an off-load
server.

5. (Previously Presented) The method recited in Claim 1, wherein:
creating a unique session identifier further comprises creating a unique session
identifier for each of the network access servers.

6. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a network access server,

wherein the network access server is configured to generate a unique session
identifier for a user;

wherein the unique session identifier is created in a manner that prevents more
than one of a plurality of network access servers from creating a same
unique session identifier [[:]];]

wherein the plurality of network access servers include the network access server;

wherein the network access server is configured to provide the unique session
identifier to an AAA module;

wherein the network access server is configured to provide the unique session
identifier to an additional server;

wherein the additional server is also configured to provide the unique session
identifier to the AAA module; and

wherein the AAA module performs AAA processing for each of the plurality of
network access servers.

7. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 6, wherein:

the network access server is associated with an IP address; and

the unique session identifier comprises the IP address.

8. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 6, further comprising:

the plurality of network access servers;

wherein each of the plurality of network access servers is configured to generate a corresponding unique session identifier.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The system recited in Claim 6, further comprising:
~~an off-load server~~ the additional server, the ~~off-load~~ additional server being coupled to receive the unique session identifier from the network access server.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The system recited in Claim 9, wherein:
the additional server is an ~~the off-load server configured to provide the~~
~~unique session identifier to the AAA module.~~

11. **(Currently Amended)** The system recited in Claim 9, wherein:
~~the off-load server is configured to provide the unique session identifier to~~
~~the AAA module, and~~
the AAA module is configured to perform port counting.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The system recited in Claim 6, further comprising:
the AAA module, the AAA module being further configured to receive the unique session identifier from the network access server.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The system recited in Claim 6, wherein:
the network access server is further configured to generate the unique session identifier by appending an IP address of the network access server to a local session identifier.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The system recited in Claim ~~[[9]]~~ 10, wherein:
the off-load server is further configured to generate a start record, the off-load server being further configured to associate the start record with the unique session identifier; and
the off-load server is further configured to provide the start record to the AAA module that provides for performing accounting processing.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The system recited in Claim ~~[[9]]~~ **10**, further wherein:
the off-load server is further configured to generate a stop record, the off-load
server being further configured to associate the stop record with the
unique session identifier; and
the off-load server is further configured to provide the stop record to the AAA
module that provides for performing accounting processing.

16. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus, comprising:
means for creating a unique session identifier for a user, wherein
the unique session identifier is created in a manner that prevents more than
one of a plurality of network access servers from creating a same
unique session identifier; ~~and~~
means for providing the unique session identifier to an AAA module, wherein
each of the network access servers is configured to request AAA
processing from the AAA module; and
means for providing the unique session identifier to an additional server,
wherein the additional server is also configured to provide the unique
session identifier to the AAA module.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus recited in Claim 16, wherein:
means for creating a unique session identifier further comprises means for
appending a unique identifier associated with a network access server to a
local session identifier.

18. (Original) The apparatus recited in Claim 17 wherein:
the unique identifier is an IP address.

19. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus recited in Claim 16, ~~further~~
~~comprising wherein:~~
~~means for providing the unique session identifier to~~ the additional server is
an off-load server.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus recited in Claim 16, wherein:
means for creating a unique session identifier further comprises means for
creating a unique session identifier for each of the network access devices.

21. **(Currently Amended)** A computer program product, encoded in computer readable storage media, comprising:
a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to create a unique session identifier for a user, wherein the unique session identifier is created in a manner that prevents more than one of a plurality of network access servers from creating a same unique session identifier; ~~and~~
a second set of instructions, executable on ~~a~~ the computer system, configured to provide the unique session identifier to an AAA module, wherein each of the network access servers is configured to request AAA processing from the AAA module[.]; and
a third set of instructions, executable on the computer system, configured to provide the unique session identifier to an additional server, wherein the additional server is also configured to provide the unique session identifier to the AAA module.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable storage media, wherein:
the first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, is further configured to append a unique identifier associated with one of the network access servers to a local session identifier.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable storage media, wherein:
the unique identifier is an IP address.

24. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable storage media, ~~further comprising~~ wherein:

~~a third set of instructions, executable on a computer system configured to provide the unique session identifier to~~ the additional server is an off-load server.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable storage media, wherein:
the first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, is further configured to create a unique session identifier for each of the network access servers.

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-13 and 16-25 have been rejected.

Claims 14 and 15 are objected to.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 9-11, 14-16, 19, 21, and 24 have been amended.

Support for the amendments to claims 1, 6, 16, and 21 can be found, at least, in p. 15, line 8 through p. 16 line 1 of the specification, as well as in Figures 4a and 4b. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment, since the Examiner indicated on 8/14/07 that the amendment places claims 1-25 in a condition for allowance.

Interview Summary

Appreciation is expressed for the telephonic interview conducted on 8/14/07 between Examiner Neurauter, and Ms. Bhagat and Ms. Brock, Applicants' attorneys. During the interview, amended claim 1 was discussed and the Examiner indicated that amended claim 1 is allowable if submitted in an after final amendment. Accordingly, Claims 1, 6, 16, and 21 have been so amended. The undersigned believes this paper is in harmony with the positions expressed during the interview.

During a subsequent telephonic interview with the undersigned on 8/16/07, the Examiner indicated that a terminal disclaimer should be submitted in the present application in order to overcome a double patenting rejection. Accordingly, a terminal disclaimer identifying the parent application is being submitted along with this response.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-13 and 16-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over "RFC 2866" in view of Applicant's admitted prior art ("AAPA"). Applicants believe that the amended claims 1, 6, 16, and 21 are patentable over RFC

2866 and AAPA. Applicants therefore request the withdrawal of the 103 rejection to claims 1-13 and 16-25.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5086.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions. Applicant also hereby authorizes that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to deposit account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sucheta S. Bhagat', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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